

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05931 170816Z

22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/117 W

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R 170720Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8771

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5931

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: QUOTAS IMPOSED ON
IMPORTS OF CHEST FREEZERS

REF: CANBERRA 1658

1. THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND THE MINISTER
FOR BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 10 THAT
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, AN ABSOLUTE QUOTA OF 20,000 UNITS
WOULD BE IMPOSED ON IMPORTS OF CHEST FREEZERS UP TO 350
LITERS CAPACITY. LICENSING WOULD APPLY TO ALL IMPORTS
OTHER THAN THOSE PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE NEW ZEALAND-
AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA). IMPORTS UNDER
NAFTA WOULD BE AT A LEVEL OF ABOUT 40,000 UNITS IN THE
NEXT TWELVE MONTHS.

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2. QUOTAS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR INDIVIDUAL IMPORTERS

BASED ON IMPORT PERFORMANCES IN THE YEARS FY75 AND FY76.
ENTRY OF GOODS PRESENTLY IN BOND OR TRANSIT WOULD BE
EXCLUDED FROM QUOTAS BUT THERE WILL BE NO SPECIAL
RECOGNITION OF GOODS ON ORDER.

3. MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS RESULT OF AN INTERIM
REPORT BY THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION. IAC
IS IN PROCESS OF INVESTIGATING NEED FOR LONG-TERM
ASSISTANCE AND THIS INTERIM REPORT WAS RESULT OF
REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE BY LOCAL INDUSTRY. IN ITS INVESTIGATIONS,
IAC FOUND THAT IMPORTS WERE CAUSING INJURY TO LOCAL
INDUSTRY BUT SUGGESTED THAT SOME DAMAGE MAY HAVE BEEN
CAUSED BY OVER-OPTIMISTIC MARKET FORECASTS ON THE PART
OF MANUFACTURERS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS FOR CONSUMER
SPENDING, SUCH AS COLOR TELEVISION. THESE FACTORS
HAD RESIATED IN LARGE STOCKPILES OF FREEZERS. THE
IAC ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT IMPORTS OF VERTICAL FREEZERS
BE MONITORED SO THAT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN IN QUOTAS
IMPOSED ON CHEST FREEZERS ENCOURAGED SUBSTITUTION BY
IMPORTS OF VERTICAL FREEZERS.

4. FREEZERS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON AUSTRALIA GATT
SCHEDULE.

5. NO IMPORTS OF FREEZERS FROM UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN
RECORDED.
HARGROVE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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